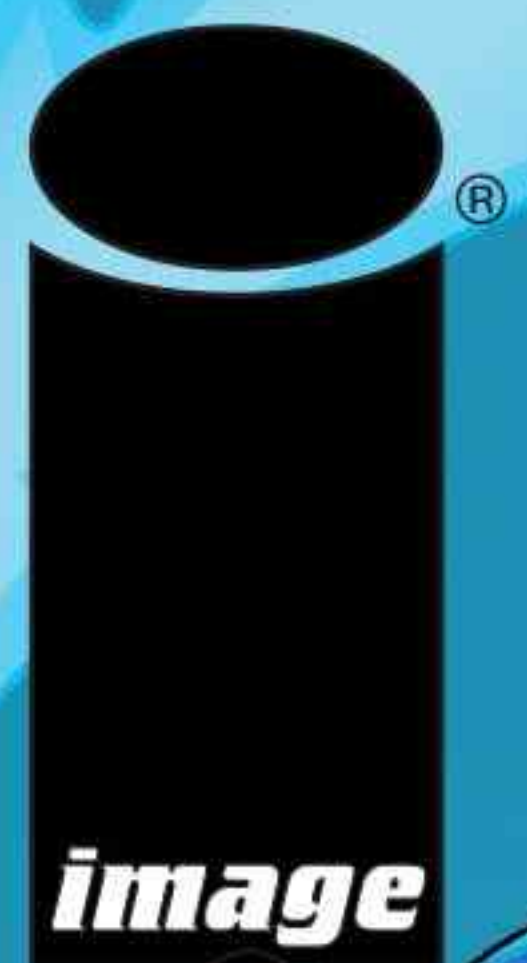




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54

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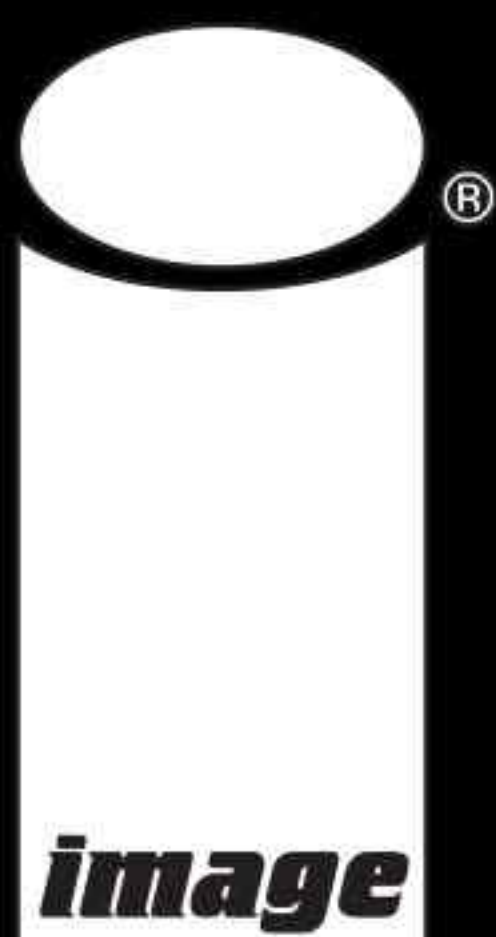


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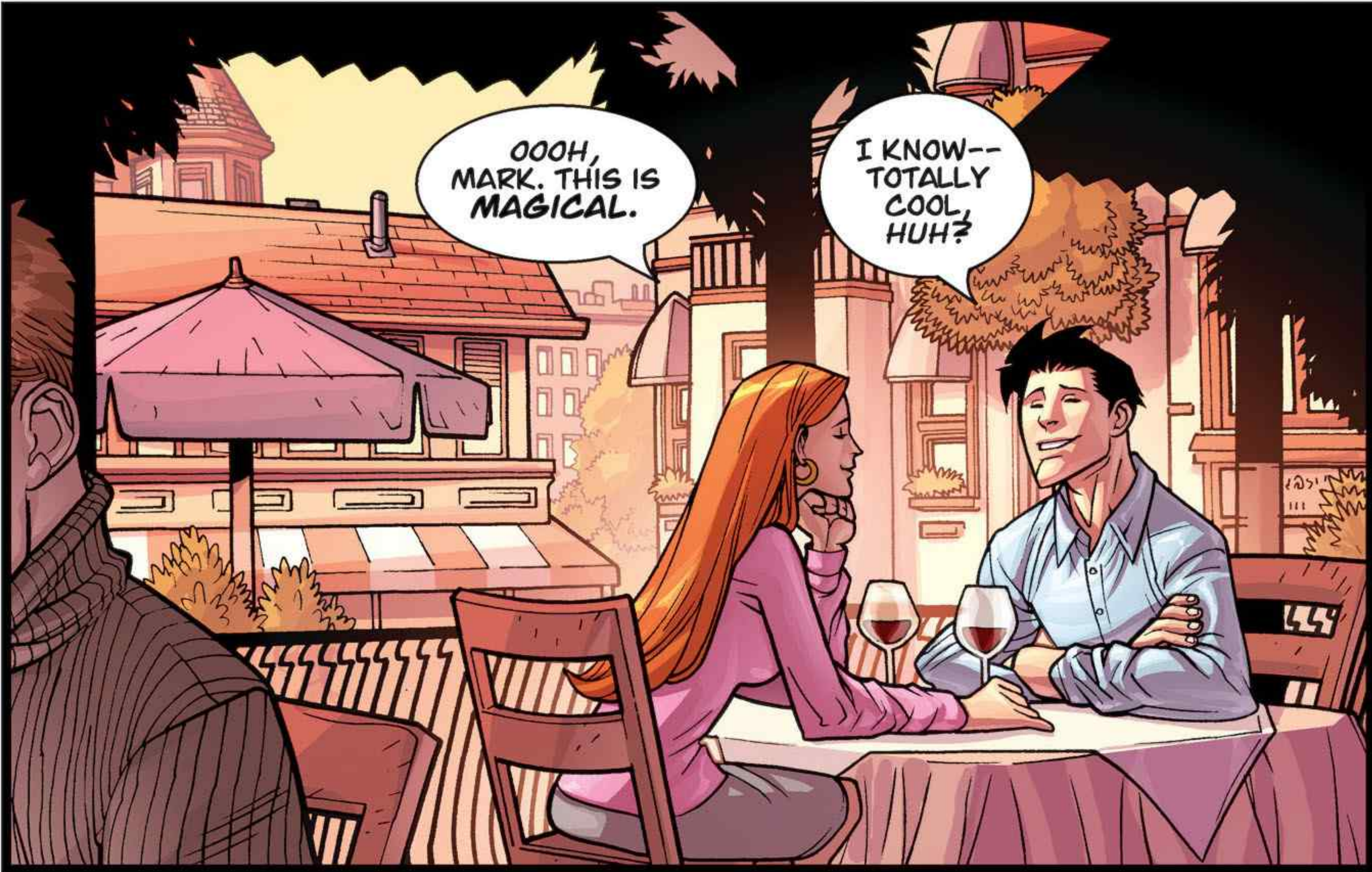
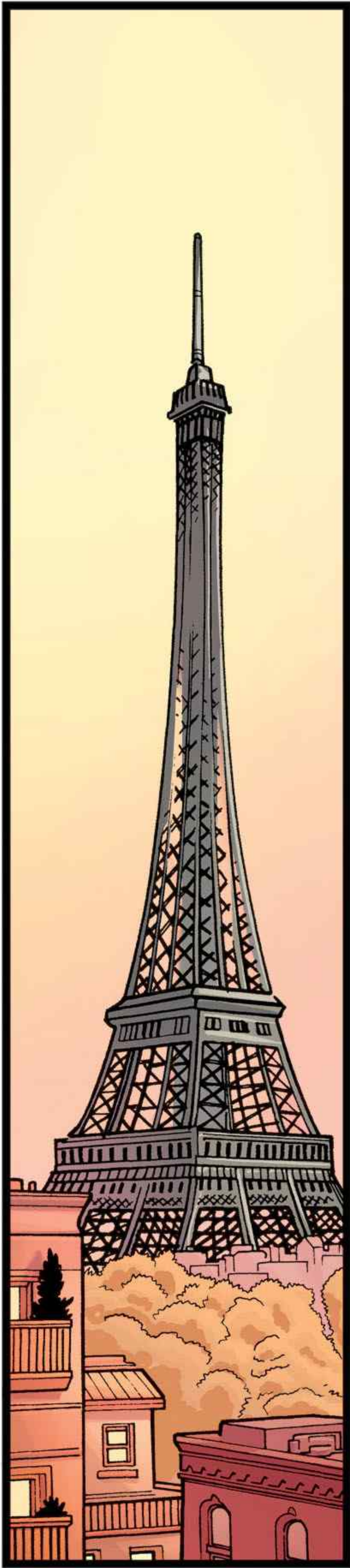
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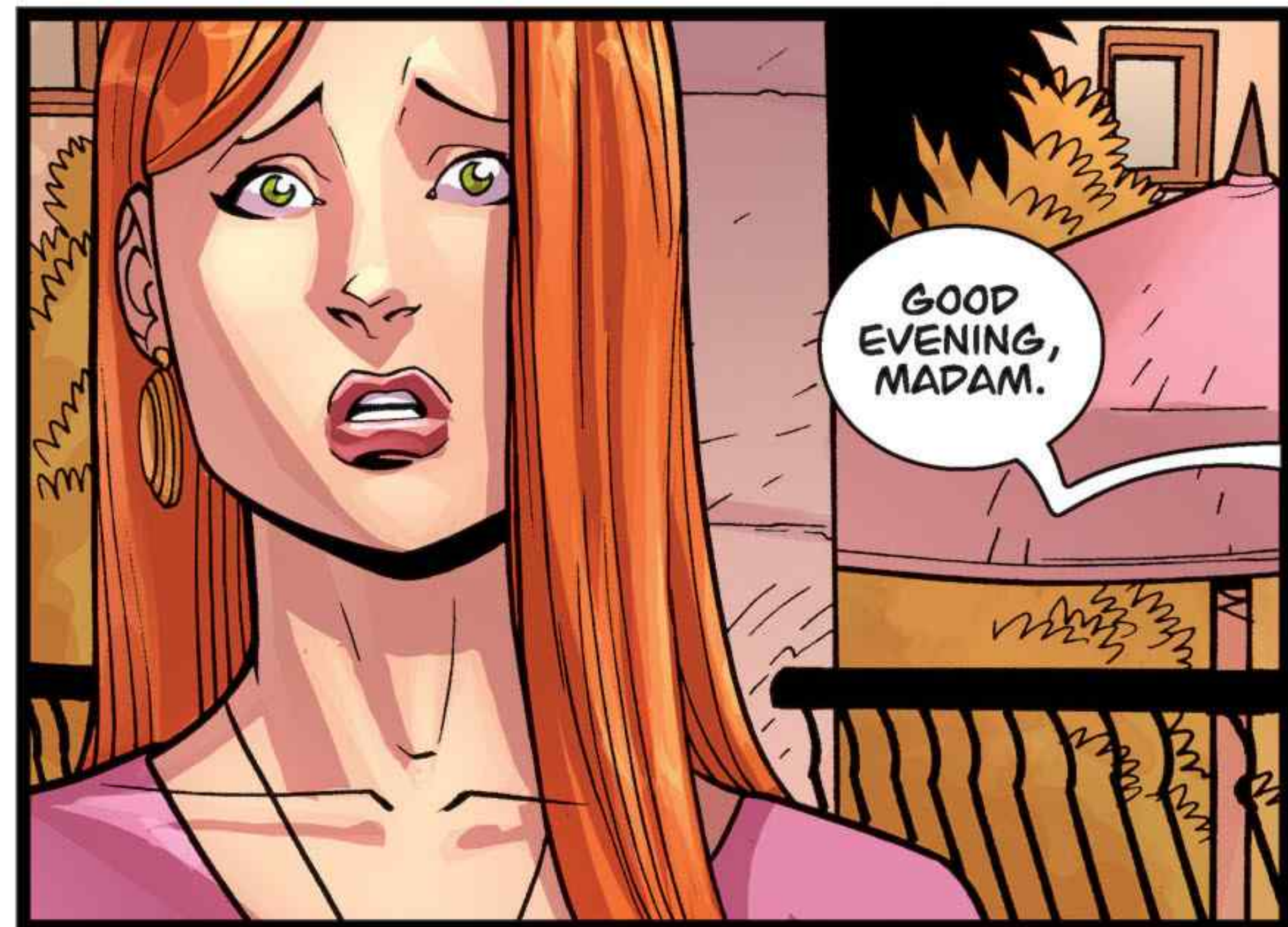
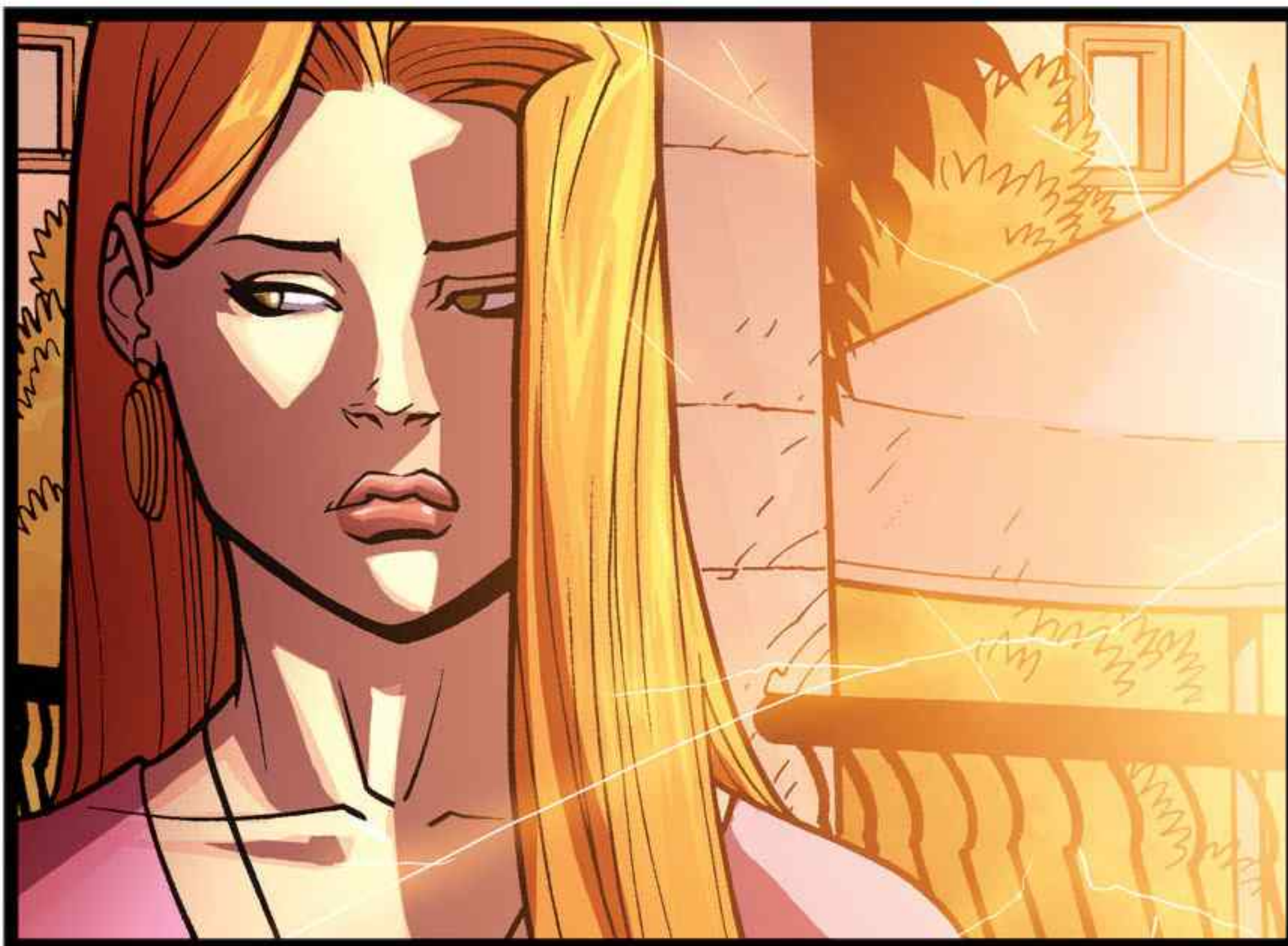
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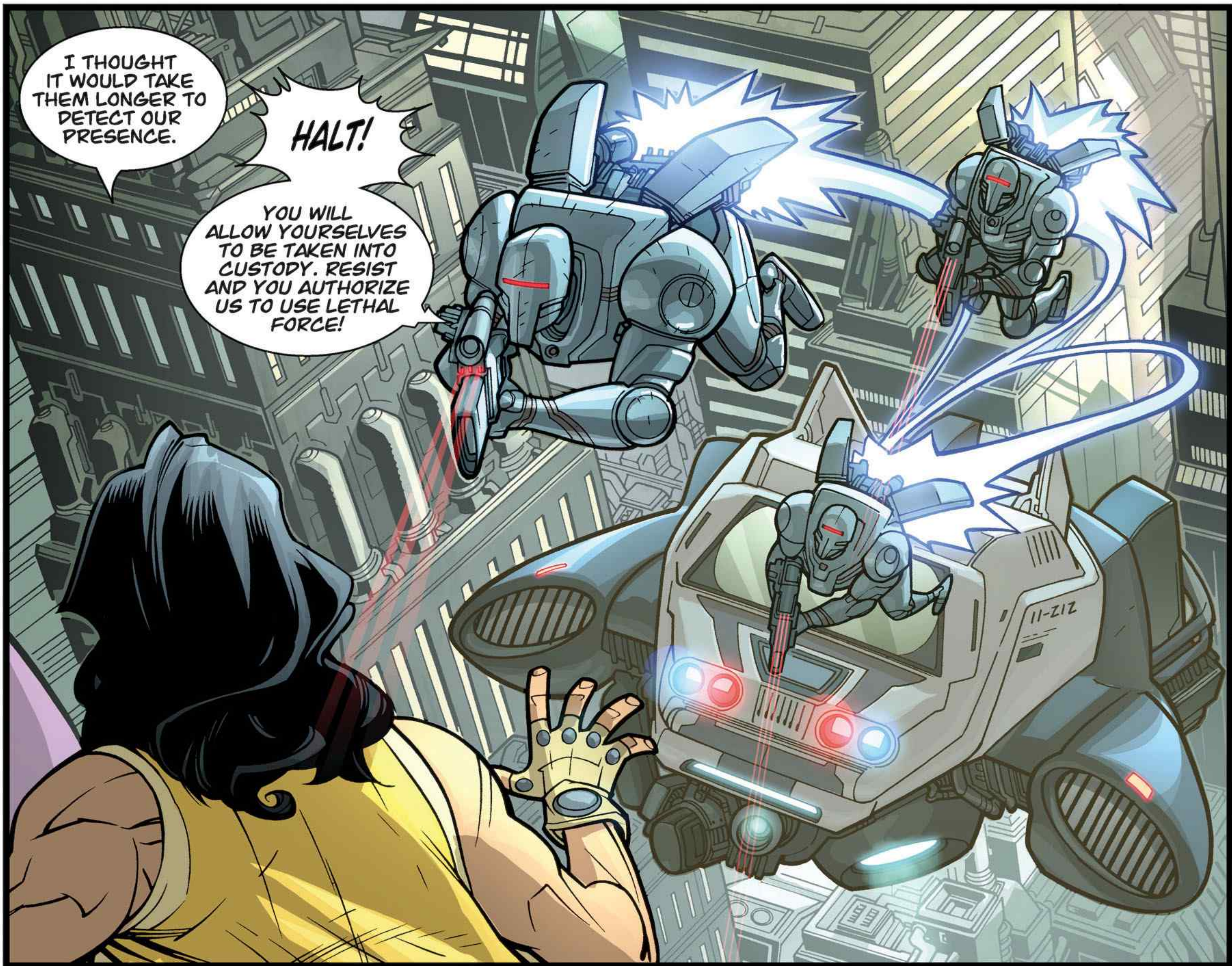




OKAY--SO WHAT IS IT YOU NEED ME TO DO? AM I FIGHTING SOMETHING?

YES, THAT'S EXACTLY IT. WE NEED YOU TO FIGHT OUR KING-- HE'S LOST HIS MIND AND--

OH, CRAP.



I THOUGHT IT WOULD TAKE THEM LONGER TO DETECT OUR PRESENCE.

HALT!

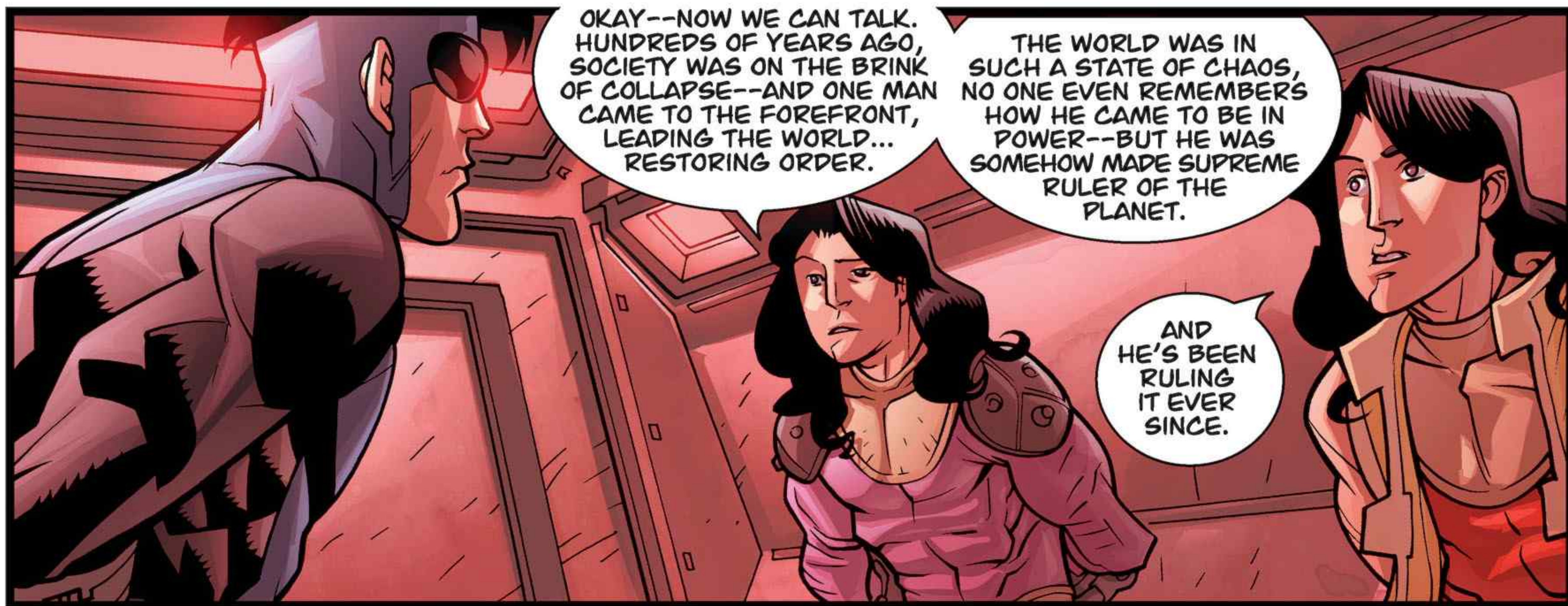
YOU WILL ALLOW YOURSELVES TO BE TAKEN INTO CUSTODY. RESIST AND YOU AUTHORIZE US TO USE LETHAL FORCE!



YOU WANT ME TO TAKE THESE GUYS OUT?

NO--THIS MIGHT ACTUALLY SPEED THINGS UP. WE WANT TO BE ARRESTED.

JUST GO WITH IT.



OKAY--NOW WE CAN TALK. HUNDREDS OF YEARS AGO, SOCIETY WAS ON THE BRINK OF COLLAPSE--AND ONE MAN CAME TO THE FOREFRONT, LEADING THE WORLD... RESTORING ORDER.

THE WORLD WAS IN SUCH A STATE OF CHAOS, NO ONE EVEN REMEMBERS HOW HE CAME TO BE IN POWER--BUT HE WAS SOMEHOW MADE SUPREME RULER OF THE PLANET.

AND HE'S BEEN RULING IT EVER SINCE.



FOR HUNDREDS OF YEARS?

IS HE A... VILTRUMITE?



WE DON'T KNOW WHAT THAT IS.

ANYWAY, HE'S LOST HIS MIND, HE'S DESTROYING THE PLANET, PEOPLE ARE DYING--AND THINGS ARE ONLY GETTING WORSE.



RIGHT--AND WE WERE ASSEMBLING PIECES OF A WEAPON THAT COULD SUPPOSEDLY DEFEAT HIM. THE INK FROM YOUR DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE WAS USED TO MAKE A POISON HE WOULDN'T BE IMMUNE TO.

IT DIDN'T WORK.



HE'S A TYRANT. HE KILLS FOR AMUSEMENT. MY WIFE WAS BROUGHT TO HIM--THAT WAS THE LAST TIME I SAW HER.



WE'RE BEING BROUGHT TO THE CITADEL, BUT WE'LL BE HELD IN THE DETENTION LEVEL-- YOU'LL NEED TO WORK YOUR WAY UP TO THE ROYAL CHAMBERS. WE'VE GOT REBELS WORKING WITH US EVERYWHERE. ONCE WE FIGURE OUT HOW TO GET YOU TO THE KING WE CAN--



YOU TWO-- COME WITH US.

WHAT ABOUT HIM?



THE KING WANTS TO SEE HIM IMMEDIATELY.



NO, I'M FINE--
I'M JUST YOUNGER.
THESE GUYS
BROUGHT ME HERE
FROM THE--

I HAVEN'T
SEEN YOU SINCE
YOU TOOK YOUR
FAMILY AND LEFT
THIS PLANET. WHAT
WAS THAT--TWO
HUNDRED--THREE
HUNDRED YEARS
AGO?

I JUST...
I CAN'T
REMEMBER.

I CARRY WITHIN ME
A GREAT SORROW,
MARK. SOMETHING
I CAN'T OVERCOME...
NOT ANYMORE...

IS IT ABOUT
KATE? DID
KATE DIE?

KATE?
I DON'T
REMEMBER
A KATE...

IS THAT
THE REDHEAD
THAT YOU--

NO!

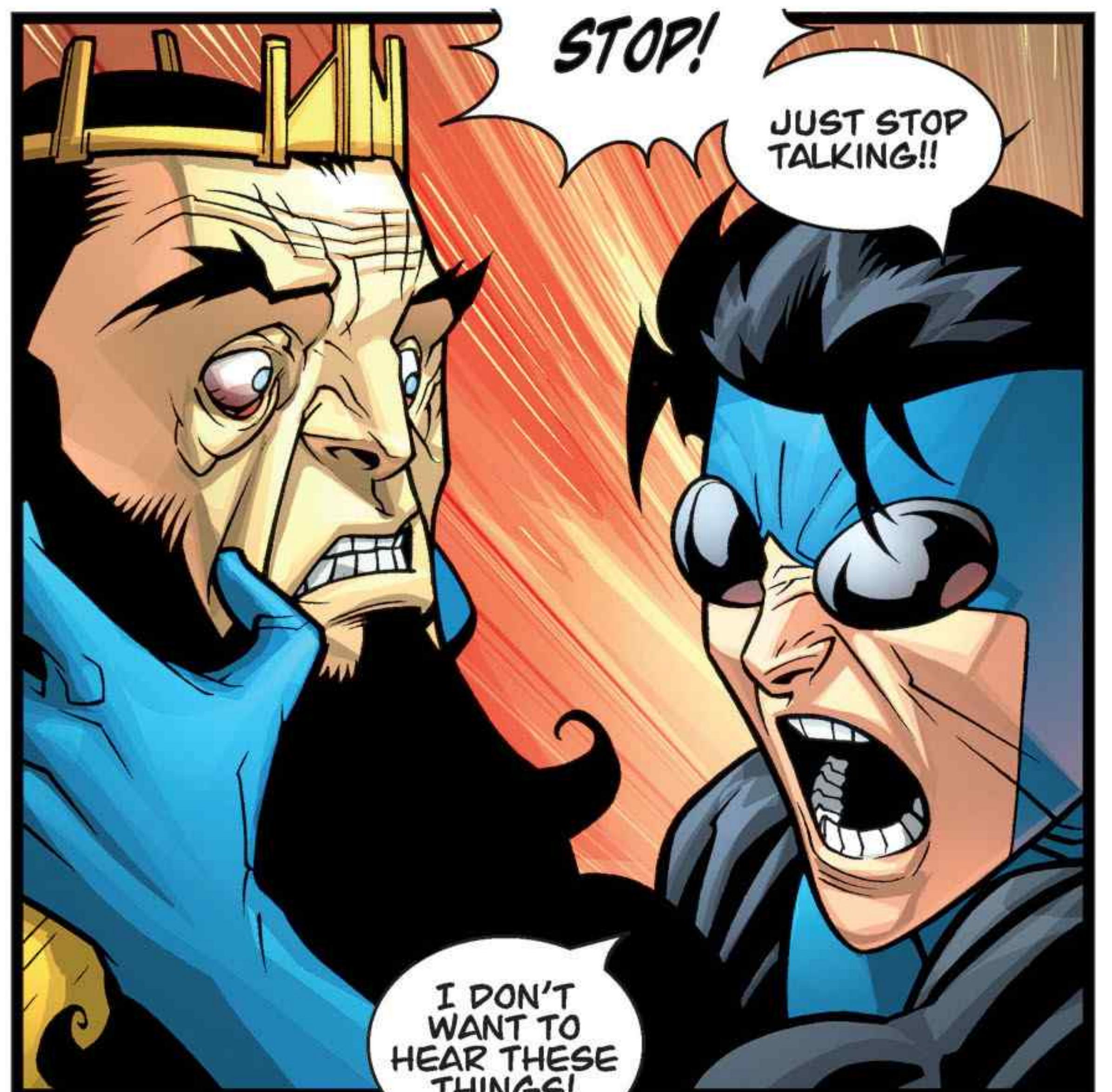
I DON'T
REMEMBER! I
DON'T REMEMBER
ANYTHING!

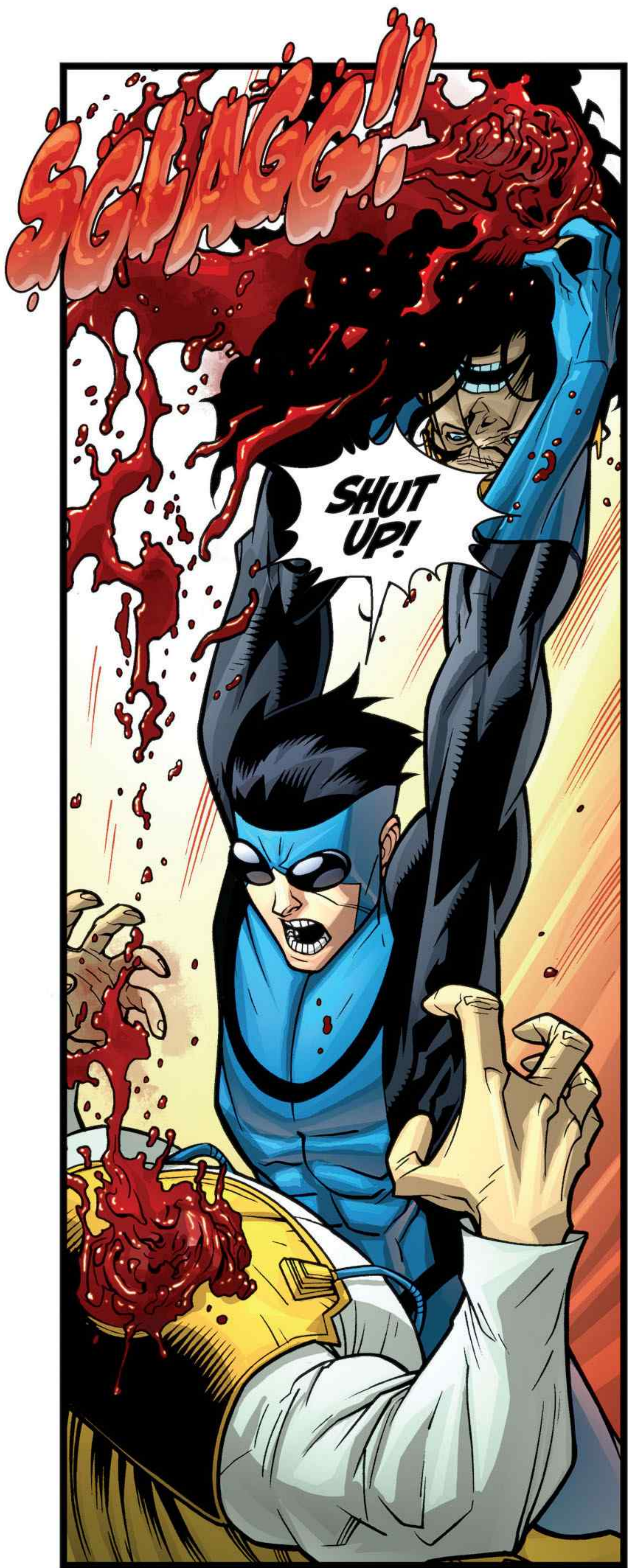
I WANT
IT ALL TO END...
FINALLY, AT
LONG LAST... I
JUST WANT IT
TO BE OVER.

I WANT
TO DIE,
MARK.

UH...
I'M SORRY,
I REALLY
DON'T KNOW
WHAT TO
SAY.





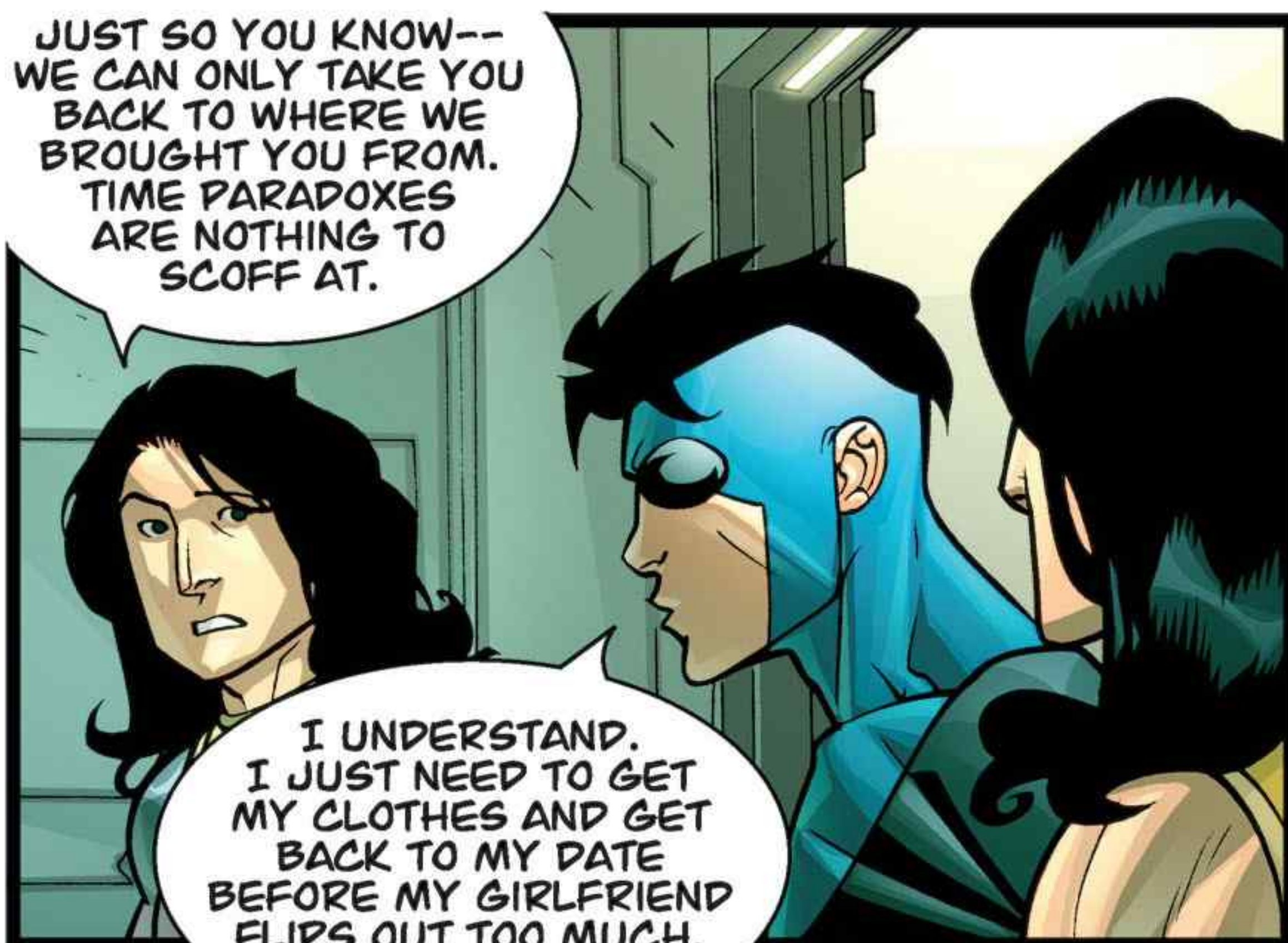
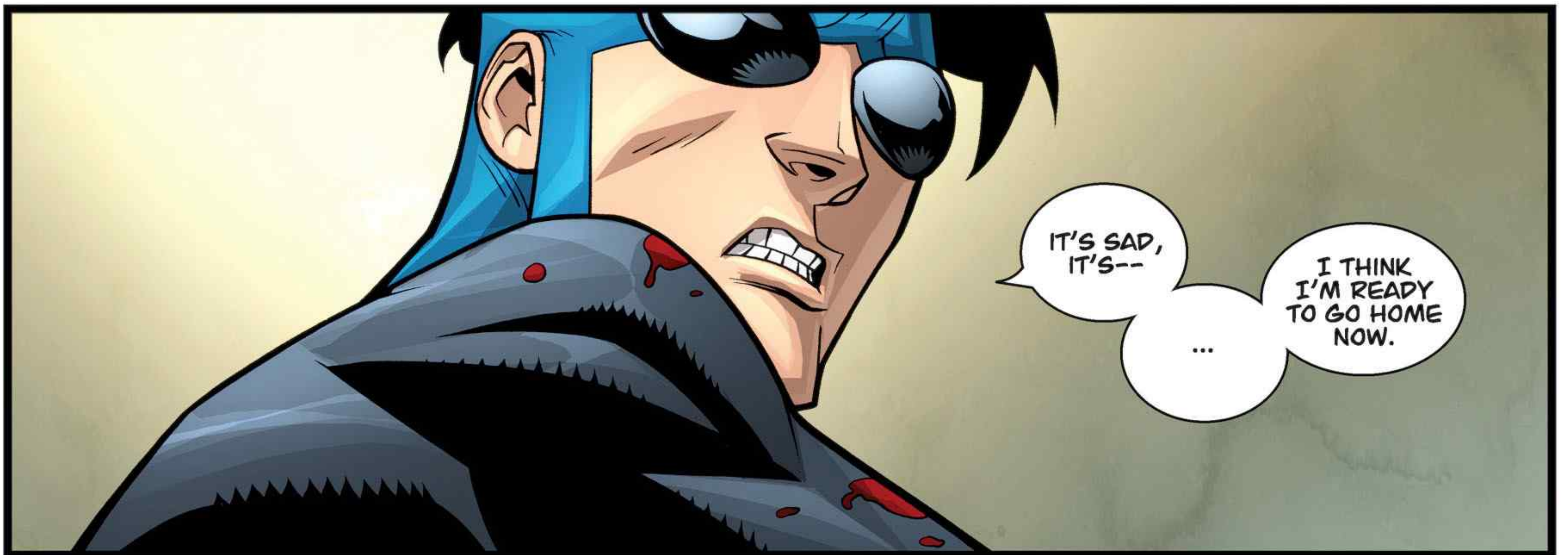


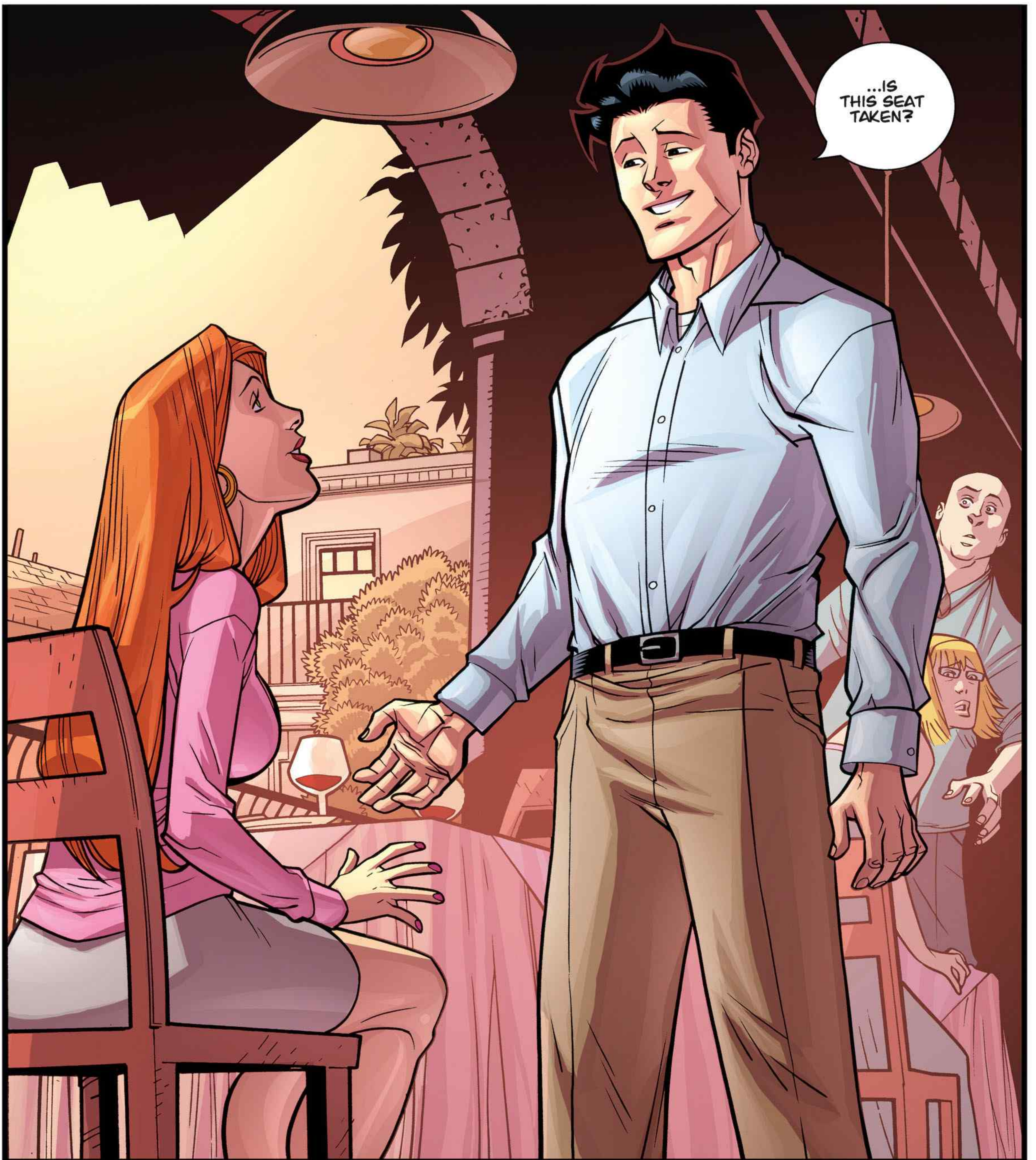
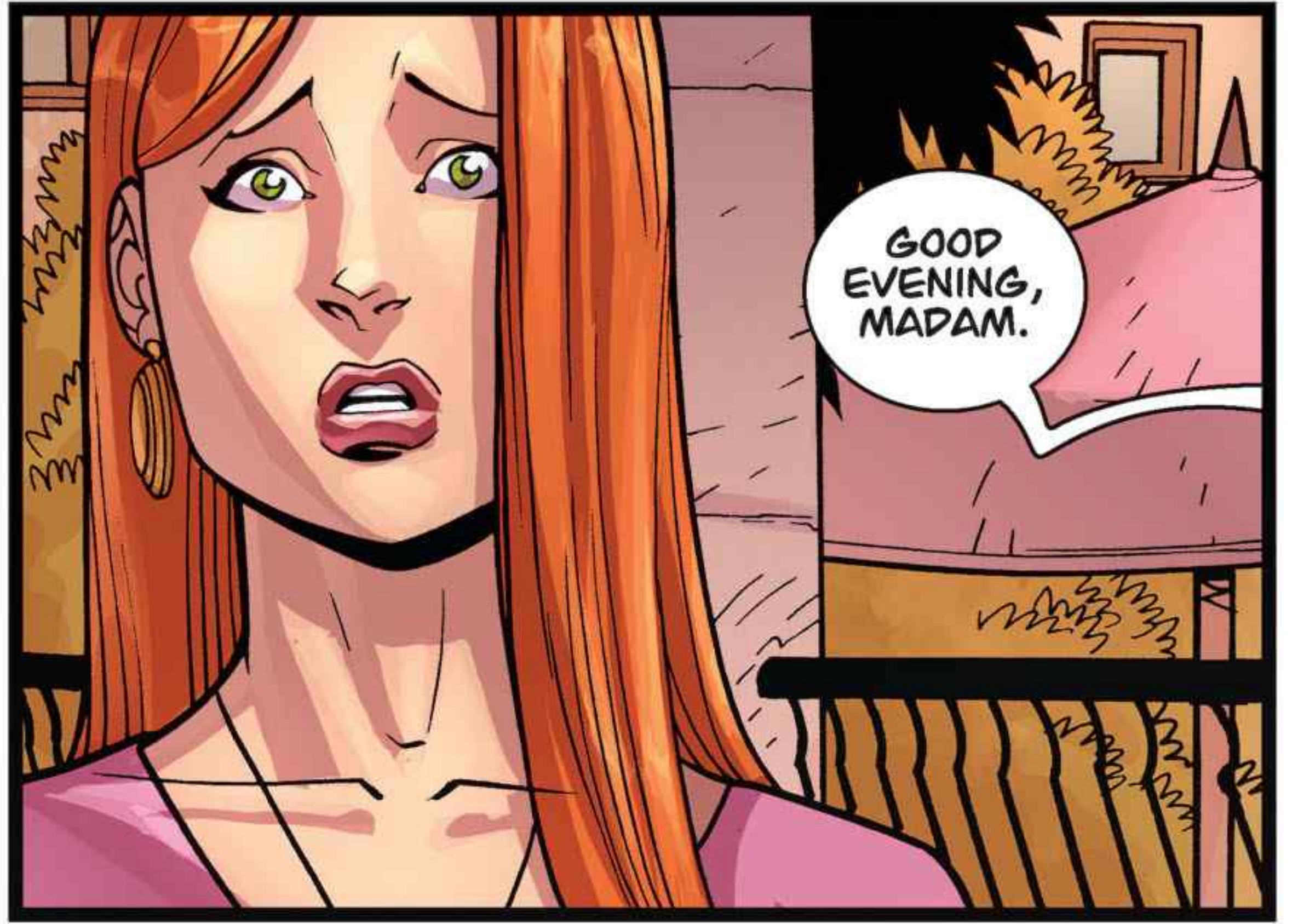
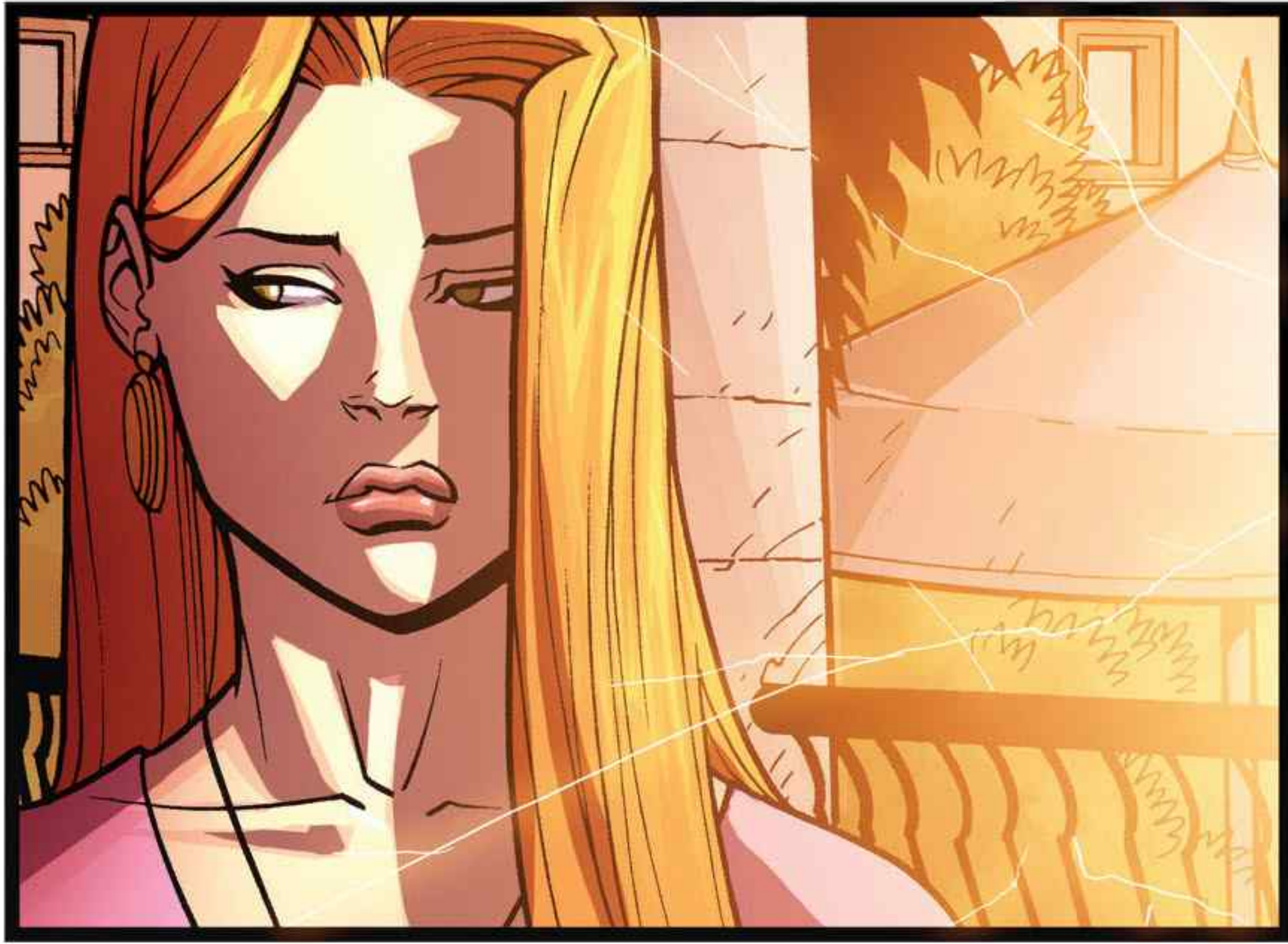
WE WERE ABLE TO CONTACT THE RESISTANCE FROM OUR HOLDING CELL. THE ROYAL GUARD HAS FALLEN--WE'VE TAKEN OVER THE CITADEL, IT'S ALL OVER!

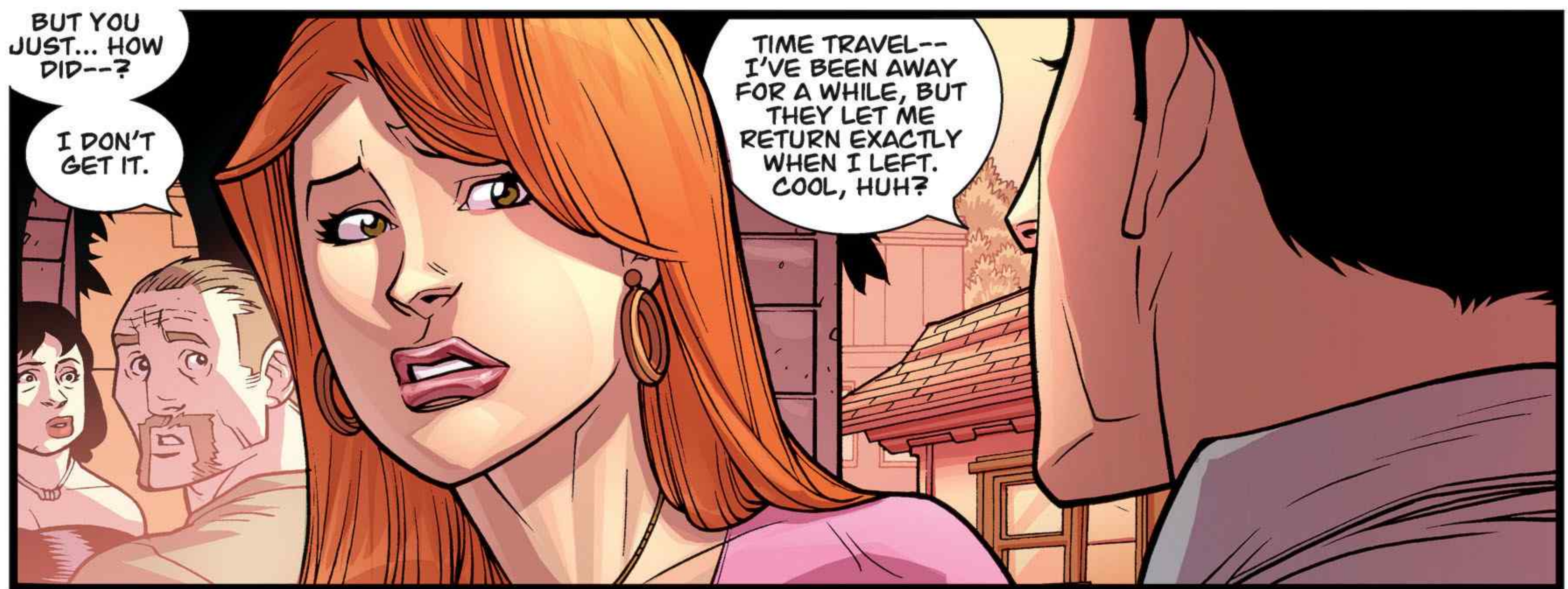
WE CAN TAKE YOU BACK TO YOUR TIME WHENEVER YOU'RE READY.

HE'S NOT REALLY DEAD. YOU NEED TO KEEP WHAT'S LEFT OF HIM SEPARATED OR HE'LL COME BACK-- THAT'S HOW HE WORKS.









BUT YOU JUST... HOW DID--?

I DON'T GET IT.

TIME TRAVEL-- I'VE BEEN AWAY FOR A WHILE, BUT THEY LET ME RETURN EXACTLY WHEN I LEFT. COOL, HUH?



YEAH, ACTUALLY. VERY MUCH SO. DATE: **UNINTERRUPTED.** GIRLFRIEND: **HAPPY.**



WHAT I JUST DID IN THE FUTURE, WELL--I DON'T REALLY WANT TO TALK ABOUT IT NOW... BUT THERE WERE SOME THINGS THAT WERE SAID--ABOUT ME IN THE FUTURE AND, WELL... DO YOU THINK I'M A GOOD PERSON?



WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? I'M HERE, AREN'T I? OF COURSE I DO. WHAT HAPPENED THERE?

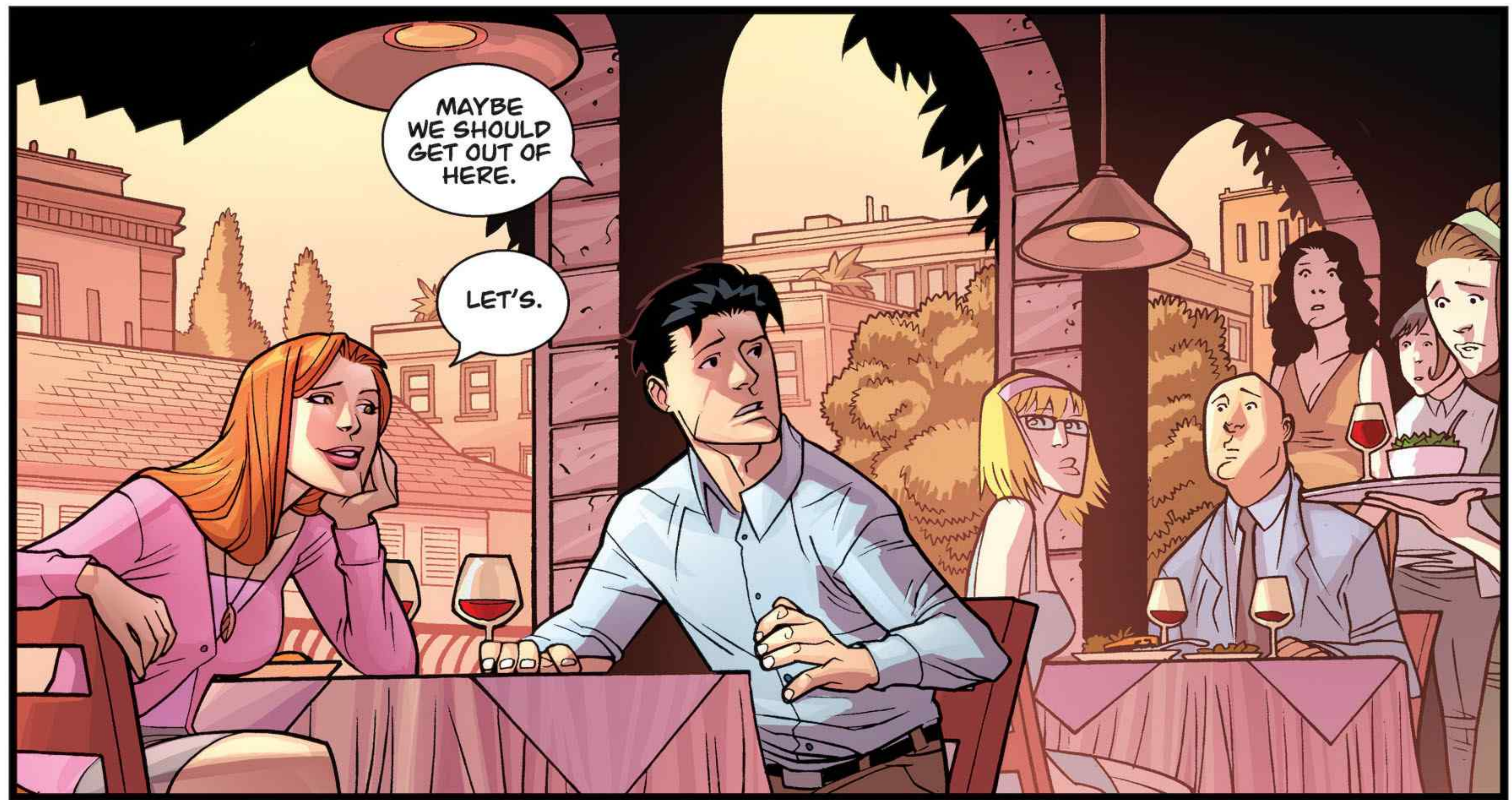


NOT NOW, LET ME JUST... I REALLY LIKE YOU AND I WANT TO SPEND MORE TIME WITH YOU BUT THE SUPERHERO STUFF HAS KEPT GETTING IN THE WAY. I THINK I CAN STOP THAT NOW.



I'M JUST GOING TO BE MORE DEVOTED TO MAKING THIS WORK--WE NEED TO BE TOGETHER, I CAN SEE THAT NOW...

UH...

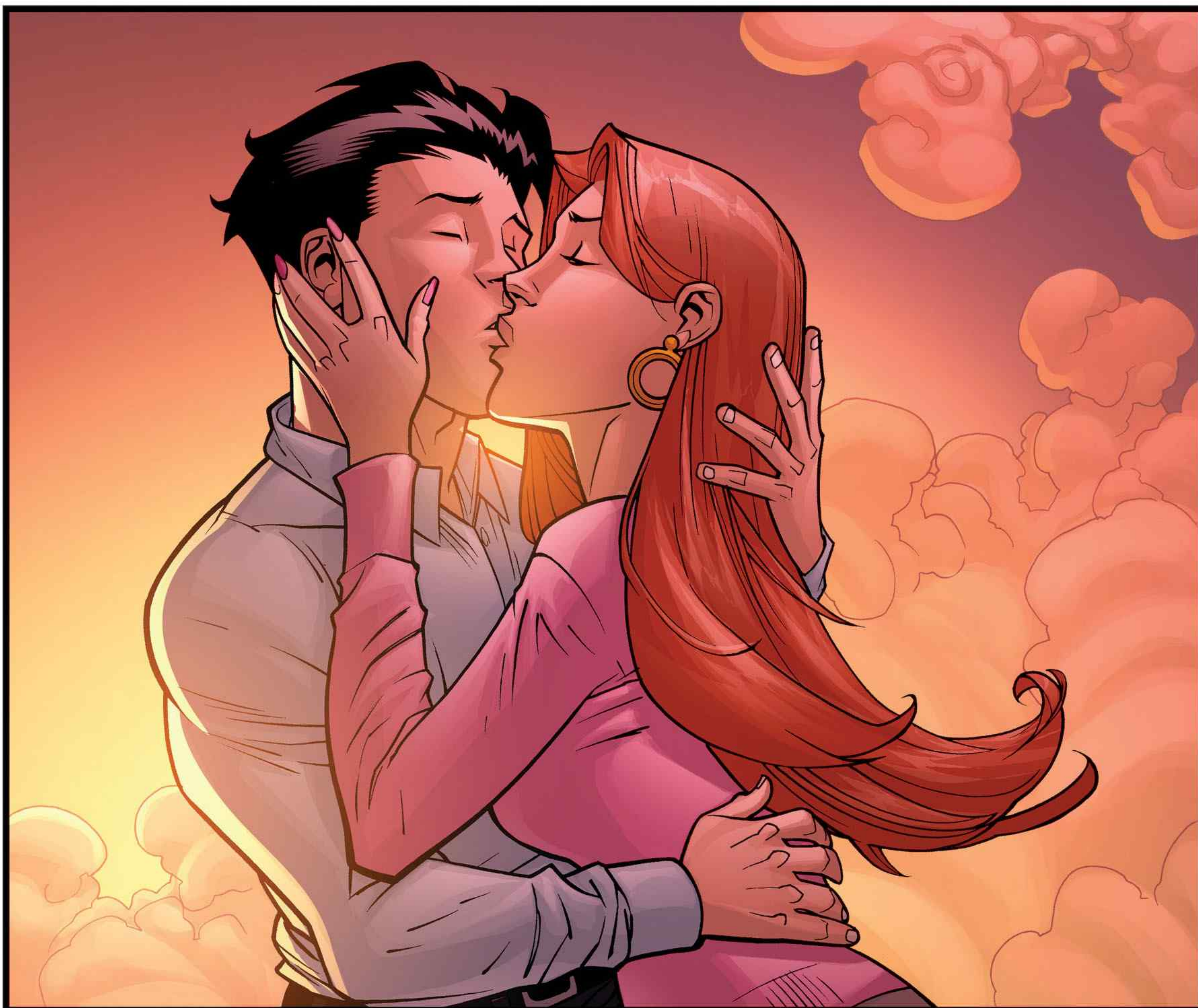
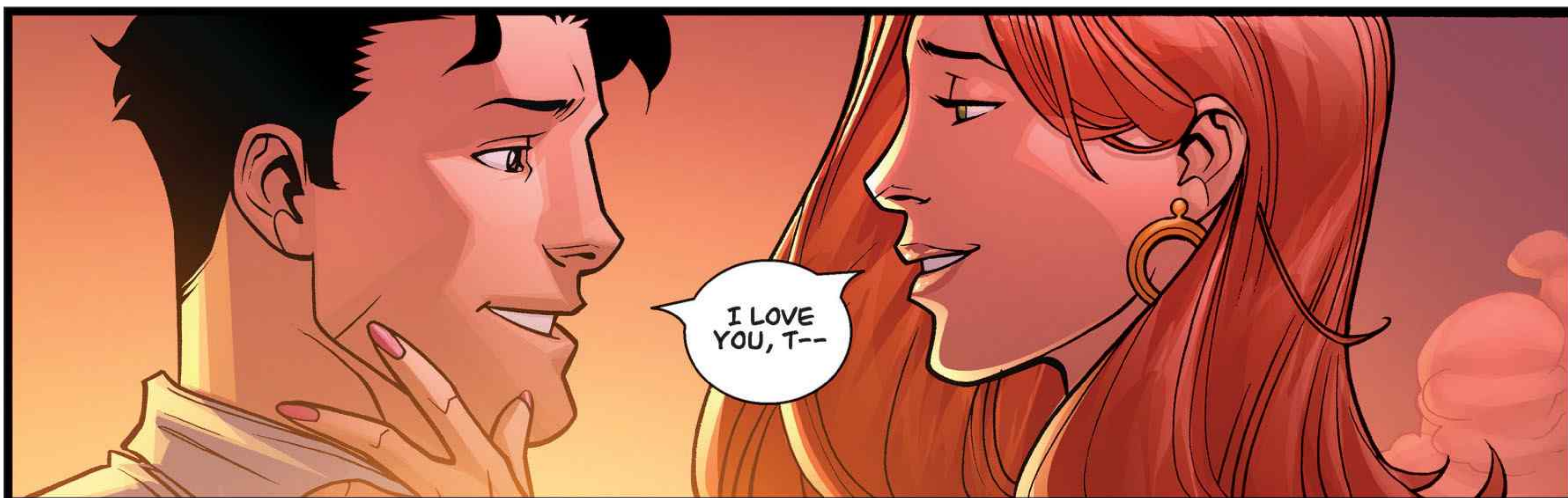
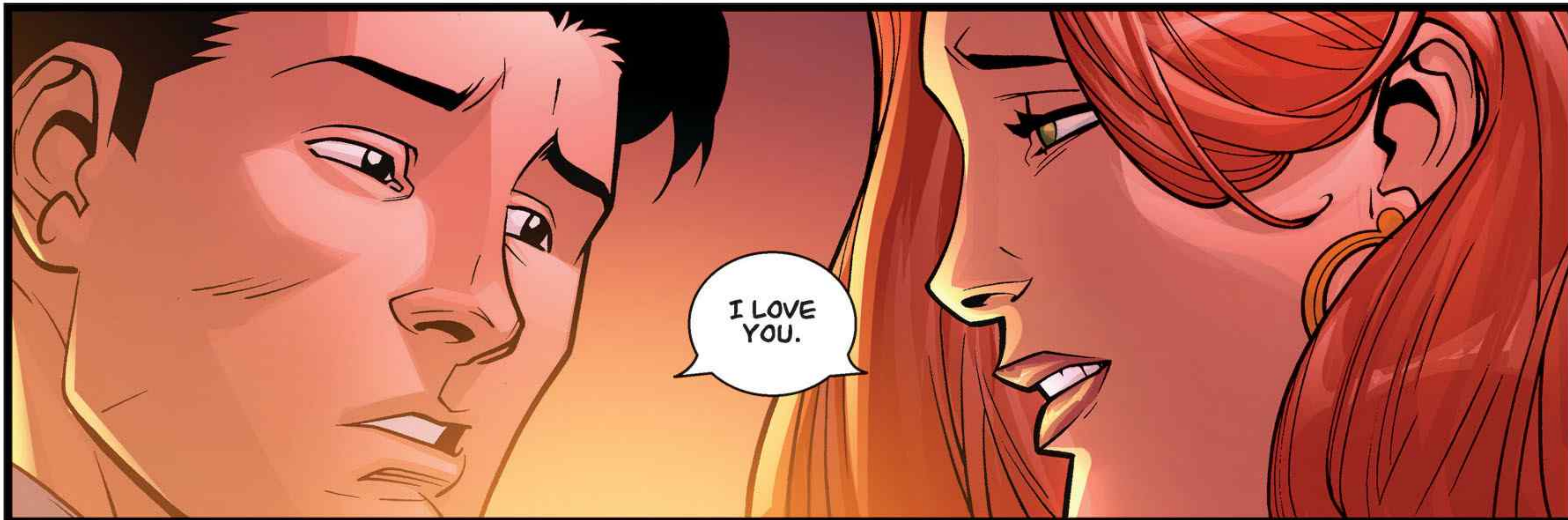


MAYBE WE SHOULD GET OUT OF HERE.

LET'S.







WRITE US @

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LEXINGTON, KY 40555-4386

INVINCIBLE@FUNKOTRON.COM



Aaaaaaand that’s issue 54. I hope you kids enjoyed it.

I recently noticed that because I’ve been so knee-deep in the effort to get this book back on schedule, I forgot to point out that part of the effort to get this book back on schedule is that Cliff Rathburn is inking a few issues. He’s inked 52, 53 and now issue 54. Ryan will be coming back to ink issue 55 and then Cliff will be back for more.

We love Cliff here at Invincible central--and we hope you do to.

Now... let’s answer some mail, shall we?

So Angstrom Levy is alive, huh? Can’t say I’m shocked. It seemed unlikely that you’d put that much work into creating that interesting a character and then just kill him... at least, not in a non-zombie comic. (Of course, it could be a DIFFERENT superpowered Angstrom Levy from a different slice of the greater infinity of parallels... who rounded up a different several thousand non-superpowered parallel duplicates and had the same accident... ow. This parallel universe stuff makes my head hurt.

Don’t worry... it’s really him. (Uh... spoilers).

But I’m glad to see him back. What you’ve done with the character is so much more thorough than the usual comic-book bad guys. We always learn--usually in flashback--the backstory that Doctor Apocalypse or whoever was once a good guy and then bad shit happened and that’s why he wants to destroy, I dunno, Wisconsin. We know but it’s not like we care. But in Levy’s case, we spent a long time getting to know him before the accident. He was a genuinely likeable guy (not necessarily the same thing as being an interesting/compelling character, though in his case that too) and when he was transformed there’s a real feeling of tragedy. Nice work.

-Tim Moerman

Thanks, we love Angstrom Levy here at Invincible central--and we hope you do to.

Hello.

First off, I love Invincible. I knew absolutely nothing about it until I was cruising around Hiddenrobot.com and saw a page their dedicated to the comic. I read a few pages and couldn’t believe how awesome it was. I shut off my computer, jumped in the car, and went out and bought the fist three trades.

Thanks hiddenrobot.com!!!!

I was bummed to see Cory leave the book and was a little skeptical of Ottley at first. Cory’s art was one of the first things that drew my eye to read those first few pages. The more and more of Ottley’s work I’ve seen, the more I think he’s one of the best artists in comics. I’ve re-read trades 1 through 9 now four times. Just finished 51 today. If Ottley’s art was jelly donuts, I’d be 500 pounds overweight.

You mean 500 pounds MORE overweight right? Right? I made a fat joke... I’m allowed. Never mind.

The writing is top notch. I’ve come to believe that there is no such thing as a coincidence in this series. Everything seems to me to be a seed that will grow into something larger someday down the line, even if its 500 issues from now. I love the characters, and the fact that this book doesn’t just focus on punching villains in the face. Your character development is perfect. I mean, Cecil is written so well, I can’t decide if I hate what he did, or think he’s completely justified. Even the archetypal characters seem more than just that.

I’m just incredibly impressed by the talent on this book. You’ve officially

replaced Bendis as my favorite writer.

Eat it Bendy!!

So ass kissing aside, I’ve got just a couple of questions.

Having re-read the series so many times I picked up on two things I thought were interesting.

1. What powers do viltrumites have that Mark doesn’t know about? Nolan hints to this at the hotdog place in Hawaii but gets interrupted by the beeper.

He was mentioning that his powers will increase as he gets older... that’s all.

2. Since I am going with this whole “no coincidences” theory. I noticed that the Green Ghost in the old guardians of the globe (when he spits out the green thingie moments before he returns to the compound and is killed by Nolan,) is wearing a green tee shirt with the viltrumite logo on it. I double checked. The viltrumite logo as is first shown during the first trade when Nolan is telling Mark the false story of his origin. Despite the colors the logo is the same. So, considering that Green Ghost is based on the Green Lantern, and the Green Lantern dudes were from space and whatnot, does that mean that the Green Ghost might have had ties to the viltrumite empire???

First off--who is this “green lantern” you speak of that Green Ghost is supposedly based on? Second... keep reading!

3. Finally, is their legal grounds for litigation against you and your crew for turning me into such a nerdy fanboy?! I mean Jesus, I didn’t even have to look up the name Green Ghost. I totally remembered that. So pathetic!

Nope... no legal grounds. Sorry.

Don’t know if these questions have been asked since their aren’t letter columns in trades. I also don’t know if you reply to these unless they’re printed. Hopefully you do!

Thanks to you and the Invincible team for making the coolest comic ever!

I think I’ll be picking up the Brit trade soon!

Thanks!
Dan Kiely

Hurry up and buy Brit!! HURRY!!

To Mr. Kirkman,

You did it again! There has been only one other time that I wrote to a comic book and it was to The Walking Dead after I read Issue #33. Well here we are at issue #51 of Invincible and I find myself compelled to write to you yet again. While issue #50 was good fun, it truly pales in comparison to this one. I can only hope the same will go for Walking Dead #51. I was severely depressed by how anti-climatic that milestone issue of #50 was.

Oh, boo hoo! Write into that book!

But back on topic. When I finished Invincible #51 today, I felt so damn satisfied. Most times when a comic ends, you feel a little jilted that maybe you didn’t get your total money’s worth, but man this issue just had some much! It was great seeing old villains brooding, The Guardians of the Globe coming to terms with Invincible and Co. departure, and the return of Angstrom Levy!!! I nearly flipped out when I saw the last panel. I was just giddy from head to toe...a feeling I hadn’t felt since Walking Dead #33 (hence my desire to reach out and write to you). I am incredibly excited to

see where this series goes next.

1. While you re-introduced us to a lot of old nemesi (is that the plural for nemesis...or is the plural like deer?), I noticed one that wasn't mentioned. Aren't we expecting an invasion from a particular group of aliens? No, not the Viltrumites. Correct me if I'm wrong, but I seem to remember that the Martian invasion is most likely on its way or whatever those blob creatures were.

That'll be coming up again soon... don't worry. It's going to take time for the Sequids that hid in Rus Livingston's body to reproduce until they have enough numbers for a takeover.

2. The new webcomic is awesome. Watched the first 4 episodes. Is this going to follow every issue up until the end (whenever that may be)?

I don't know how long it will run right now. At least until issue 13. That's all I know right now.

3. What's the status on the Invincible movie? If there was a young actor today to play the role of Mark, who would you want?

Shia Labouf is awesome... I dig him. There are others. It's not really my call though. I think Scott Porter could do a great job with it. He'd be a better action actor than Shia, I think.

4. Are we going to get some more backstory on The Immortal? I've loved that character ever since I learned he was Abraham Lincoln...that was great. In fact, a backstory dealing with how is faked his death during the assassination would rock!

I have lots of plans for The Immortal that I will get to eventually.

5. Are we going to see any of your other superhero comics join into a huge crossover event? Is it possible that you might instigate a crossover with the eventual Viltrumite invasion?? Brit fighting off Viltrumites would be awesome! Wolf-Man taking on Viltrumites! I want!

We'll see.

6. Not so much a question, but more as a congratulations. Way to go in becoming a partner with Image!!! Honestly, since you arrived on the scene with Invincible and Walking Dead in 2003, it seems Image has just been on the rise. You are doing some great work and I look forward to seeing what you will do with your new found powers! Will you use them for good? Or for evil? Regardless, you will do great! Yeah, on a completely different subject not related to your new found position in any way.....I've been writing this comic book, you see.....

- Ben "Beeslo" Beesley

I'm probably going to use my powers for evil. Stay tuned.

Yo Kirkman,
What a fantastic 51st issue. Love the new colorist it gives the book a whole new look. The last page awesome... I just have one question/complaint

Don't turn his brother into his kid side kick. Don't make him Robin please.....
Anyway keep up the good work.....

Daring D

Just because he's a kid and wears a similar mask--doesn't make him Robin. Oliver is way cooler than Robin will ever be. Trust me.

Dear Kirkman,

Issue 51 was the best issue of Invincible in a while. It was way better than the hyped-up issue 50. There were so many cool things in it. Mauler Twins, Angstrom Levy, Invinciboy. "Definitely" the best one in a while. It had good action and a lot of good humor.

Fco Plascencia turned out to be a great replacement for good old Bill. Some of his coloring reminded me of the Val Staples covers, which were cool. (How do you pronounce Fco? Is it an acronym?)

Yeah, it's a nickname. You pronounce it "Eff-See-Oh."

So when does Destroyer MAX come out? Killraven? Haunt? I can't wait for this stuff. Especially Destroyer, because of Cory Walker's art.

Destroyer, Killraven and Haunt are all going to come out in 2009. The exact months are not set in stone yet. Sorry.

Oh, and nice job on becoming a corporate partner with Image. Good stuff. I guess you're a big cheese over at image now.

Keep Invincible going strong!
-James DeAngelis

Will do!!

Dear Kirkman,

I haven't read the issue yet, just some of your response to my letter printed there. I agree, actually: I am hard to please. So's Simon Cowell...Ebert and Roeper...you name it.

Andrew J. Shaw

Yeah... compare yourself to Ebert and Roeper... nice.

Dear The Amazing Kirkman,

Okay, I've read the issue...and it wasn't bad. This was more of a first issue whereas #50 was more of a last(or final) issue. The 'Teen Team' could be just "The Team"...couldn't they? Then there's Kid Omni-Man; not exactly Kid Rock or Kid Flash, eh? I'm thinking he could use his own adjective really! Something like...'Obtrusive'? 'Objective'? Not many good ones start with an O, I guess. I get the sense more and more in the last few months how much Invincible owes his creation to Nightwing...who used to be Robin...who used to be partnered with Batman; you don't suppose that the O on Omni-Boy's chest--I like that design by the way--could just stand for Oliver? I do have a question, though; I notice most writers have no end to the number of questions they ask....FCO Plascencia, the new colorist? Does he or she know CCH Pounder? CPO Sharky...? That's a little joke(haha). Guess he did a good job, too, this ish.

Sincerely,
Andrew J. Shaw

Nightwing? Really? FCO Plascencia is actually CCH Pounder's son. Good catch.

Okay, there was a big of a pin-up snafu in issue 52 and well, we're turning in issues so fast that by the time I found out about it issue 53 was already turned in and approved at the printer... so, I'm rerunning the pin-up here. Last time there was a technical error that resulted in Ryan's retailer variant for issue 52 running in place of Shaun O'Neil's pin-up... so let's try this again.

If you look over there to the right you'll see a pretty sweet pin-up by one Shaun O'Neil. Shaun came up to me at the recent Heroes Con in Charlotte, North Carolina to show me his portfolio. Now, I don't do portfolio reviews at cons (unless you're good) because it's a pain to have some poor guy standing in front of you who kinda sucks, but is trying really hard... but just can't pull it off. I mean, if the world was fair, hard work would be enough--but it's just not, and most guys showing portfolios around at cons kinda suck because of that. The thing is, the best thing for these people would be if I shook them and said "you're probably really good at something that would be easier to make a living at--try that!" But I don't want to get a reputation as a mean guy... and so I usually pussyfoot around and compliment the one good thing ("you're panel borders are straight") and then move on... so yeah... I hate looking at portfolios at cons... BUT when it's guys like Shaun O'Neil I really dig it.

He's a talented dude... and his pin-up is good. So enjoy, and hopefully you'll be seeing more of this dude very soon.

That's it for issue 54, I'll see you all back here for issue 55 very VERY soon.

-Robert Kirkman





NEXT ISSUE

THE FINAL CONFRONTATION WITH THE VILTRUMITES
STARTS HERE!